

REMARKS

Applicants, having received a Notice of Allowance mailed June 25, 2004, in the above-identified application, request that the Examiner consider and enter the instant Amendment, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.312.

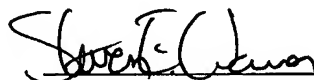
Consideration of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.312 is deemed appropriate to improve the syntax and form of the subject application. Claims 19-24 have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention. Specifically, the term "the contact portions" has been changed to --the contacting portions-- throughout the claims to ensure proper antecedent bases. No new matter has been added by these changes.

Applicants submit that these changes are directed to purely formal matters and do not substantively affect the scope of the claimed invention. As the Examiner is familiar with the subject application, Applicants believe that consideration of the instant Amendment will result in no substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Patent and Trademark Office. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner enter this Amendment.

Favorable consideration and an early passage to issue are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven E. Warner", is written over a horizontal line.

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